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## PRESENT STATUS OF UNIVERSITY BILL

Mr. McGuire Suggests That Legislature Reject Early-Rison Measure and Indorse General Idea of College for Women.

Murray M. McGuire, a member of the committee appointed by Richmond Chapter, University of Virginia Alumni, to oppose the enactment of the Early-Rison bill, gave out yesterday the following statement containing a discussion of the situation and a suggested solution:

It has been unjustly urged that the opponents of the Early-Rison bill are opposing the establishment of a college for the higher education of women in Virginia. Such is not the case. The two matters are entirely separate and distinct, and in no way related to each other. The question of establishing a college for the higher education of women is not before the Legislature, but the enactment of this particular plan for a woman's college as contained in the Early-Rison bill is the only question up for discussion. Why do those persons who are engaged in the attempt to force affirmative action on this bill by the Legislature fear a postponement of two years if their cause be just? The Times-Dispatch of Sunday suggested that no harm can come to the university, to the woman's college, nor to the State, by further consideration of this matter and fuller development of plans for the institution before there be taken a step for its establishment from which there can be no recession and which will commit the Commonwealth to large annual expenditures, indefinitely.

**One Reason for Postponement.**  
No one can deny that this matter is too important for the Legislature to take any risk as to making a mistake. Moreover, if this step be taken now, with the bill in its present or any kindred shape, and with the sentiment among the alumni what it has been shown to be, this action will cause such a breach that the university, in its new form, will lack the support of those upon whom it must chiefly depend. These enthusiastic persons forget that the majority of the students at the university came there through the interest and influence of the alumni, and it is this power for the university's welfare that they would so disinterestedly cast aside, and who will say that the prospective girl students can compensate the university or the State for such a loss?

**Legislators Pledged on Misunderstanding.**  
Many members of the Legislature promised to vote in favor of this bill, before they understood its provisions and before they knew there was any opposition. Their support in many instances was obtained on statements that have been proved to be erroneous.

**Faculty Misquoted.**  
They were told that the faculty of the university were in favor of this bill, and this statement went unchallenged until the publication of a letter from Professor Graves showing that the faculty had never even considered this measure and had indorsed an entirely different idea. The resolutions

and he had not realized before the discussion that this Early-Rison bill, even as amended, goes very much further than those resolutions, and provides for a different sort of institution. He is a gifted speaker, and he painted a beautiful picture of a co-ordinate college, such as he favors. When he had ended his carefully prepared address he was questioned about the provisions of the Early-Rison bill, which is now before the Legislature, and he had to admit that the materials for his picture were not taken from that bill. Attention is called to the fact that it is not his picture, but the Early-Rison bill that the Legislature is asked to pass on.

In flowing language Dr. Alderman said that the co-ordinate college would be at some distance from the university, and that the girls would have their separate home there, and would not even be seen "on the lawn or under the arcades" except when they came, as all citizens of the State have a right to come, to the library, museums or public hall.

**Dr. Alderman's Admissions.**  
But after several plain and pointed questions had been asked, and he was compelled to give a direct reply thereon, he had to admit that under this bill, as amended, the girls of such a co-ordinate college would have the same lecture rooms as the men, under the same professors in every department of the university, provided only that they be not present in the same lecture room at the same time. They may come in the men go out, and vice versa. The buildings may be full of students of both sexes at the same time under this bill as amended. They may be at the university, "on the lawn and under the arcades" and in the university buildings as students at all times, just as much as the men, provided only that they be not in any particular lecture room at the same time as the men. Finally, he was unwillingly forced to say that this bill he had been said to favor is not what he had in his mind, and in order to prohibit the things pointed out above, which he said should be prohibited, the bill must be changed. He saw that changes must be made to fit his picture, and the unwilling witness dramatically exclaimed: "Write it in!" But there he parted with his new found friends, for they did not agree to this. The person responsible for this bill did not want any such changes, and the picture of the wishes of that person, not those of Dr. Alderman, prevailed, so that the picture drawn in the bill, and not that drawn in Dr. Alderman's imagination, is now before the Legislature.

**Former Claim of Support Unfounded.**  
They claimed that the board of visitors favored the passage of this bill in its original form and its full significance. He has said he did not, and he has been forced to admit that he does not favor the material features of this bill, even in its amended shape. They claimed that the faculty favored it. The faculty's resolutions show that they do not.

**They claimed that the board of visitors favored it.** The action of the board shows that they do not. They claimed that the Board of Education supported them. The published resolutions of the Board of Education show that it does not.

**They claimed that all of the public school teachers of the State favored their bill.** The only resolution they have published shows that these teachers do not.

**They claimed that all the women of the State support their bill.** Conversation with the first dozen women met outside of the lobby of the Legislature will show the fallacy of this claim. The fact is that the women who oppose this measure, like those who support it, are known by public appearance, and they are not less to this State, and they are none the less in the large majority.

**Action Should Be Postponed—Real Opposition.**  
There is no opposition by any one to a college for women. The question is: Shall this particular bill, for this particular college, with these particular or similar provisions, become a law? Now, if many supporters of these advocates claim, practically none can be shown to favor the Early-Rison bill in its original or amended shape, as has been pointed out, and no one has given any reason for acting now.

**There is no real demand for this movement.** Nothing can be lost by waiting for two years. The reason for delaying action so that the alumni of the university may have time for full consideration is so potent that it is hard to believe that the board of visitors, earnestly asking for postponement, and the situation is such that the Board of Education, at its December meeting, recommended that no action on the subject of a college for women be taken at this session.

**Dr. Alderman on This Question.**  
Dr. Alderman, speaking for the advocates of this bill, when painting his glowing picture of the co-ordinate college he had in his mind (which he had to admit was not the same as that provided for in this bill), refused to express any opinion as to whether action should be taken at this time. The resolution of the board of visitors, which showed their disapproval of the measure in its original form, not materially different from its amended form, and asked for postponement, so narrowed the proposition down that whether the bill be right or wrong, the vital question is whether any action shall be taken now, with feeling

liberally turned his back on his plain duty, and for reasons best known to himself, which he would not state, he refused to speak on this subject. This action on the part of Dr. Alderman is not unnaturally claimed by the advocates of this measure as showing that he favors immediate favorable action on the Early-Rison bill. **Record on Dr. Alderman.** Unfortunately for them, and for him, he was forced to answer a few questions of unmistakable meaning, which showed that this bill provides for such coeducation, in fact, that the college it would establish is not what he favors. Furthermore, we have the printed resolution of the board of education, of which Dr. Alderman is a member, adopted in the month of December, recommending in effect that no college for women anywhere be established at this time because of the financial condition of the State. He, therefore, has never spoken for immediate action, and whatever may have been his reasons for silence last week they cannot be such as involve the welfare of the State, or the welfare of the university. Otherwise, he would have given them. The record we have shows that he has committed himself to the unwisdom of creating

**The Board of Education Not in Favor of Bill.**

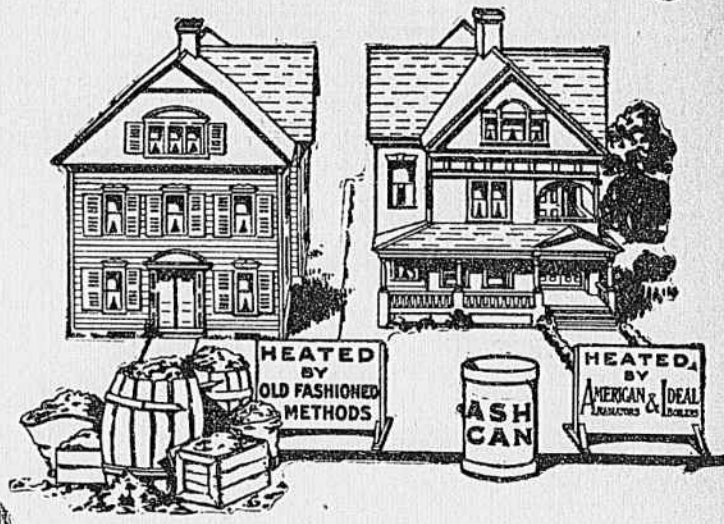
They claim support from the Board of Education. The resolutions of the board published by themselves show that the board has never considered this measure, that it has in effect recommended that no college for women be established at this session of the Legislature, because of the financial needs of the State, and that the board did not consider it within its province to speak as to the location of this institution when created. It is to be noted that Dr. Alderman and the Superintendent of Public Instruction are members of this board.

**Dr. Alderman Admits He Misunderstood Bill.**

Especially have the persons behind this matter claimed that Dr. Alderman, the president of the university, favored this measure. They even had him appear before a meeting of the joint committees of the Senate and House to speak for it at a time when none of those now most active in opposition to the bill were on hand. He was present later when a hearing had been granted last week, by the Senate committee, at the request of the representatives of the alumni, who are opposed to the Early-Rison bill. On this second occasion he frankly admitted that he had misunderstood the provisions of this bill. At the time he had in mind the attitude of the faculty approving the general idea,

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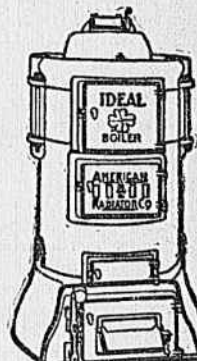


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rially affect the very life of the university and the finances of the State. MURRAY M. MCGUIRE.

## TO SAVE CHESTNUT TREES

Philadelphia, Pa., January 29.—Because of the spread of the chestnut blight, Governor Tener has called a convention of the States at Harrisburg on February 20 to consider the fungus disease which already has caused millions of dollars worth of damage to chestnut timber. The Pennsylvania chestnut tree blight commission which is fighting the scourge announces that the convention has been called in order that the other States not yet touched by the blight, but in its line of advance, may be aroused to action, and be ready to meet the invasion at their border. "Pennsylvania's problem," the commission states, "is now or soon will become the problem of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan."